

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 0385

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, AR, AO
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF ANGOLA SITUATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY
OFFICIALS

REF: A) BUENOS AIRES 7446, B) STATE 010646

1. EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED ANGOLA SITUATION SEVERAL TIMES WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY SINCE INITIAL CONVERSATION OF NOVEMBER 12 (SEE REF A). MOST RECENT DEMARCHE MADE TODAY (JANUARY 20). ON EACH OCCASION MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED THERE IS NO CHANGE IN ARGENTINA'S POSITION--I.E., ARGENTINA HAS NO INTENTION OF RECOGNIZING MPLA OR ANY OTHER GROUP AS GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA UNTIL SITUATION THERE HAS BEEN COMPLETELY CLARIFIED. MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN AND SURPRISE AT EXTENT OF CUBAN INVOLVEMENT AND HAVE NOTED THAT CUBAN DIPLOMATS HAVE MADE NO EFFORT TO DENY INVOLVEMENT. ON CONTRARY, ARGENTINE MISSION TO UN HAS REPORTED THAT SEVERAL CUBAN DIPLOMATS THERE HAVE TOLD ARGENTINES OPENLY THAT CUBA IS INTERVENING TO DEFEND ITS MPLA BROTHERS AND HAS NO INTENTION OF PULLING OUT.

2. DIRECTOR OF DIVISION OF AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST TOLD POLCOUNS TODAY THAT GOA HAD HAD "HINTS" FROM MPLA MISSION NOW TOURING LATIN AMERICA AND FROM FNLA GROUP BASED IN ZAIRE REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF VISITING BUENOS AIRES TO EXPRESS THEIR RESPECTIVE VIEWS. ACCORDING TO DIVISION CHIEF, HOWEVER, GOA, IN ITS POLICY OF COMPLETE EQUIDISTANCE AND NONINVOLVEMENT,
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HAS TURNED DEAF EAR TO BOTH SIDES.

3. PERIODIC REPORTS ON SITUATION IN ANGOLA HAVE PROVED VERY
USEFUL AS BACKGROUND TO DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY
OFFICIALS. EMBASSY HOPES THEY WILL CONTINUE TO COME.
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